



What opportunities are available for PhD candidates interested in gaining international experience within ECIU?

The membership of Lodz University of Technology in the ECIU University alliance provides real added value for early-career researchers. Thanks to ECIU, PhD candidates at TUL have easier access to international contacts, research collaboration, and mobility opportunities, enabling them to develop their projects more quickly and build a network of research partners across Europe.

1. The “student” option

As students, PhD candidates have access to the same ECIU offer as other students. They can **participate in international micro-modules and challenges available on the engage.eciu.eu platform**. In-person participation in these activities can also be linked to mobility funding opportunities, mainly through Erasmus+.

Additionally, although less frequently, there are also offers specifically addressed to PhD candidates, such as a [summer school for doctoral researchers](#) in Kaunas planned for June 2026. These opportunities are usually announced in the news section on our website, eciu.p.lodz.pl.

2. The “staff” option

If a PhD candidate is employed by the university, they can also benefit from opportunities available to staff, such as participating in events like the ECIU Forum or engaging in the work of various thematic subgroups and work packages related to ECIU.

3. Researcher Mobility Fund

PhD candidates at TUL can apply for funding under [the Researcher Mobility Fund](#), an **ECIU initiative aimed at supporting scientific collaboration between alliance universities and facilitating access to infrastructure and know-how at partner institutions abroad**.

The fund **supports research visits, the development of joint publications and projects**, as well as participation in ECIU events focused on building international research teams. PhD candidates may receive up to €5,000 in mobility support. The programme is overseen by the [Research Support Centre at TUL](#).





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4. Research & Innovation Hub

Another important option is the [Research & Innovation Hub](#), an **online collaboration space**. It is a good place to look for partners for future grants, build consortia, and develop international cooperation.

5. ECIU Seed Programme

PhD candidates at TUL can also benefit from the ECIU Seed Programme, which **supports the creation and development of international research networks**. The programme includes two types of activities: **blended mobility aimed at building new connections, and seed projects supporting the development of existing research consortia**.

Projects must involve researchers from at least three ECIU universities, and those looking for collaborators can easily begin networking via the Research & Innovation Hub. This programme is also coordinated by the [Research Support Centre](#).

6. ECIU Research Labs

It is also worth mentioning the new [ECIU Research Labs](#) initiative launched in 2025, which **supports the formation of international research teams**.

This initiative focuses on **networking, idea exchange, and the preparation of joint grant applications, with a particular emphasis on strengthening collaboration among early-career researchers**.

It is an excellent pathway for PhD candidates who want to actively engage in international consortia and gain experience in European projects. More information is available at the [Research Support Centre](#).



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